

GOLD COAST BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY

ADMISSION POLICY

[1] Proof of an annual and **current** C5 vaccination for dogs and a F3 vaccination for cats.

[2] Should a dog's/cat's annual and **current** vaccination be due at the time of boarding, our admission policy requires at least a 2-week inoculation period from the time of this annual booster, prior to its boarding.

In this situation, when our office takes such a booking, we remind the owners to:

- organise the dog's/cat's boosters a good two weeks before the time of such boarding
- Or
- if the owner does not have the 2-week time period prior to the boarding date and the visit is only a couple of days, we suggest the annual booster be administered after the boarding visit

The 2-week period from the time of the vaccination to the boarding kennels is not only a time period to stabilise the immunity of the animal, and to confirm that the animal has not contracted any dog/cat flus, and/or any other diseases from the veterinary surgery.

[3] Should a dog/cat lapse in its annual and **current** vaccination booster, and has missed their previous annual C5/F3 vaccination, our admission policy requires at least a 4-week period of inoculation from the time of vaccination, prior to its boarding and to give the animal a good period to build up their immunity.

In this situation, when our office takes such a booking, we remind the owners to:

- organise the dog's/cat's vaccinations a good 4-weeks period before the time of such boarding

Or

- also note that if the animal is a puppy/kitten, then a 4-week inoculation period is required after the puppy/kitten's **final vaccine**. (**Puppies / kittens must be a minimum of five months to gain entry into the boarding environment & a minimum 4-week inoculation period after their final booster vaccinations.**)

Or

- note that dogs who have only received a partial cover of vaccinations with either a C3 or a C4, then the vaccinations need to be upgraded to a C5, and again a 4-week inoculation period is required before the boarding admission date.

Or

- in the cases of new customers showing us a C5/F3 vaccination which was given to their pets 2-weeks before the boarding admission date, we then require to confirm the previous annual C5/F3 vaccination to further confirm that this current vaccination is a booster; otherwise we will assume their pet/s have missed their previous annual C5/F3 vaccination and a 4-week inoculation period is required before the boarding admission date.

(If boarding is required immediately or within this 4-week inoculation period, then this booking within this inoculation period will be cancelled. The animal will only be allowed admission after the 4-week inoculation period, in this instance.)

Some particular cases may require individual evaluation as to the acceptance of the animal into the boarding facility. eg. An older animal who has not received or has no history of any vaccination will not be accepted entry after the initial 4-week inoculation period, if the animal requires a second booster, probably a month after the initial vaccination. The second booster required will then again require an inoculation period of four weeks. (A regime similar to puppy/kitten series of initial vaccinations.)

We feel confident with these time constraints presented in the above [2] & [3] situations, so as to prevent incidents of dog/cat flu and other diseases entering the kennels. We apply the same admission policy to all our customers and our customers feel “comfort of mind” that we police and adhere to such admission policies.

We have based **our admission policies relating to the above time constraints** on our personal experience with the many animals that we have observed during their boarding experiences.

In the past, when dog/cat flus have entered our kennels we have always documented the incidents and asked the following questions:

- when was the animal's last vaccination?
- is the animal a highly strung / nervous /stressed animal?
- is there another underlying medical reason?
- has the animal recently been to a vet?
- has the animal recently been to any of our local dog parks?

Generally, **at least one of the above questions had a positive response.**

Occasionally, there was **a negative response** to all the above questions, **reinforcing that immunity is an individual trait** varying with the breed and personality of the boarding animal, and some animals with **a poor immunity system are just not suited to adapt** and cope with the boarding environment, away from their homes.

Our kennels have these procedures and others to provide a stress-free environment so as to keep the boarding animals comfortable and secure and hopefully maintain their level of immunity and reduce any incidents of animal flu, vomiting, gastroenteritis and diarrhoea induced by stress.

We feel the above practices show our customers that we try to provide a safe, stress-free and disease-free boarding environment for their pets.

Rosemary & Glenn House
GOLD COAST BOARDING KENNELS & CATTERY